

VIDEO SCRIPT - LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

3/4/19

HELLO FRIENDS THIS IS DR. DAWN BUCKINGHAM, YOUR STATE SENATOR FOR DISTRICT 24.

WE HAVE NOW COMPLETED EIGHT WEEKS - OR ABOUT 40 PERCENT - OF THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

WHILE THERE IS MUCH WORK AHEAD OF US BEFORE THE END OF SESSION MAY 27, I WOULD LIKE TO UPDATE YOU ON THE EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERWAY ON YOUR BEHALF.

ON JANUARY 18, I WAS HONORED TO BE NAMED CHAIR OF THE SENATE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAN PATRICK.

SINCE THEN, THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY HAD FOUR COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND CONSIDERED THE NOMINATIONS OF 126 PEOPLE NOMINATED FOR STATE BOARDS BY GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT.

AS CHAIR OF THE SENATE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE, I AM BLESSED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH SOME OF THE MOST TALENTED PEOPLE IN TEXAS WHO ARE WILLING TO DEDICATE THEIR TIME TO SERVE THEIR STATE IN SUCH IMPORTANT ROLES.

THESE NOMINEES COME FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS FROM ACROSS TEXAS - AND SOME ARE ACTUALLY HISTORIC.

FOR EXAMPLE, I AM PROUD TO HAVE HELPED SUPPORT THE NOMINATIONS OF:

- COURTNEY PHILLIPS, THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE COMMISSION,
- SYLVIA HERNANDEZ KAUFFMAN, THE FIRST HISPANIC FEMALE TO SERVE AS INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE COMMISSION,
- AND TRACY R. NORRIS, THE FIRST WOMAN TO SERVE AS ADJUTANT GENERAL OF TEXAS.

ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT, THE BILL FILING DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING, AND I HAVE ALREADY FILED SEVERAL BILLS I BELIEVE WILL MAKE SENATE DISTRICT 24 - AND THE STATE OF TEXAS - AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, TO RAISE YOUR FAMILY, AND TO START A BUSINESS.

MOST OF THE BILLS I HAVE FILED FIT INTO ONE OF THE 5 PRIMARY AREAS I FIGHT FOR.

THESE ARE:

- A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLY LIMITED GOVERNMENT
- A FIRST-CLASS EDUCATION FOR OUR CHILDREN
- PATIENT-CENTERED HEALTH CARE
- PUBLIC SAFETY AND THOSE WHO PROTECT US
- AND RURAL TEXAS, AND THE TEXAS WAY OF LIFE

AMONG THE BILLS I HAVE ALREADY FILED INCLUDE:

- SENATE BILL 282, WHICH WILL MAKE SURE ANY FINES COLLECTED BY TXDOT FOR LATE PROJECTS REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITIES THAT WERE AFFECTED BY THE DELAYS, SUCH AS SALADO, WHICH WAS HARMED BY DELAYS ON I-35 CONSTRUCTION,
- SENATE BILL 283, WHICH WILL HELP COMMUNITIES SUCH AS HARKER HEIGHTS RECEIVE RELIEF FROM THE STATE FOR GRANTING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS TO DISABLED VETERANS,
- AND SENATE BILL 596, WHICH INCLUDE REFORMS TO OUR PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM TO HELP LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHO SEEK TO PROTEST THEIR APPRAISED VALUE.
- I HAVE ALSO FILED LEGISLATION TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY AND BURDENSOME GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS RELATING TO SALES AT BREWERIES, ALSO KNOWN AS BEER-TO-GO, PLUS LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT WINERIES AND DISTILLERIES THROUGHOUT SENATE DISTRICT 24.
- ANOTHER IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR MY DISTRICT IS THE REGULATION OF ROCK CRUSHERS. I AM WORKING WITH MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE ON LEGISLATION

TO STRENGTHEN THE OVERSIGHT OF THESE FACILITIES AND TO INCREASE PENALTIES ON OPERATORS WHO VIOLATE STATE LAW.

- I HAVE FILED SEVERAL OTHER BILLS RELATED TO ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS, SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPROVING HEALTH CARE.

YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE BILLS, AS WELL AS OTHERS I HAVE FILED, BY VISITING MY OFFICIAL SENATE WEBSITE. JUST SEARCH FOR “SENATOR DAWN BUCKINGHAM” AND CLICK ON THE FIRST RESULT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT - AND I LOOK FORWARD TO PROVIDING ADDITIONAL UPDATES AS THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION CONTINUES.

GOD BLESS YOU - YOUR FAMILY - AND THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS.